

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /069 W

-----117883 242233Z /75

R 241145Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7835

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 0745

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV CG

SUBJECT: LEGISLATORS OPPOSE MOBUTU ON REVISED CONSTITUTION

REF: A) 77 KIN 11296 B) 77 KIN 11667

1. SUMMARY: ZAIRE'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE
THUS FAR REFUSED TO APPORVIE MOBUTU'S REVISED CONSTITUTION
SUBMITTED FOR THEIR APPROVAL JANUARY 19. THE DEPUTIES
APPEAR EAGER TO TEST MOBUTU'S COMMITMENT TO POLITICAL
LIBERALIZATION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MET JANUARY 19 TO HEAR A FIRST
READING OF MOBUTU'S REVISED CONSTITUTION, WHICH WAS
DISCUSSED AND PPROVED THE PREVIOUS WEEK BY THE POLITICAL
BUREAU. THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS HAS NOT YET
PUBLISHED THE PROPOSED REVISIONS, NOR HAS IT SHED ANY
LIGHT ON THE LEGISLATIVE DEBATE WHICH IS NOW IN ITS
FIFTH DAY. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCES, INCLUDING
INDIVIDUALS PRESENT AT THE DEBATES, THE DEPUTIES EXPRESSED
THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE REVISIONS BY REPEATEDLY BOOING
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JUDICIAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT KENGO WA DONDO DURING HIS
PRESENTATION OF THE TEXT. THE DEPUTIES REPORTEDLY HAVE
ARGUED THAT ONLY A RETURN TO THE PRE-1965 CONSTITUTION,
WHICH WOULD GREATLY INCREASE HE POWERS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AT THE EXPENSE OF THE EXECUTIVE,
WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH MOBUTU'S PLEDGE OF LAST JULY
TO LIBERALIZE ZAIRE'S POLITICAL PROCESS.

3. THE CURRENT MOOD OF THE LEGISLATORS IS CLEARLY
CONFRONTATIONAL (REFTELS). ALTHOUGH NOT SANGUINE
OVER THEIR PROSPECTS FOR SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDING THEIR
AUTHORITY, THE MORE MILITANT DEPUTIES APPARENTLY ARE
CONVINCED THAT PROVOKING MOBUTU TO DISMISS THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO ACCEPTANCE
OF THE RUBBER STAMP ROLE TO WHICH THEY BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT WOULD
LIKE TO CONFINED THEM. MOBUTU'S SKILL AT POLITICAL
MANIPULATION MAY BE SEVERELY TRIED IN THE DAYS AHEAD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3726123
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEGISLATORS OPPOSE MOBUTU ON REVISED CONSTITUTION
TAGS: PGOV, CG
To: STATE
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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7aea24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Sheryl P. Walter
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